

Developmental Disabilities Council
Policy & Law Committee Minutes
November 15, 2019
Panera Bread, 140 East Main Street, Newark DE

Members Present: Rick Kosmalski (Chair), Derrick George, Terri Hancharick, Nancy Lemus,

Members Absent: Maitri Campbell, Daniese McMullin-Powell, William Powell

Staff present: Rachel Engle (DDC intern)

I. Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Approval of September meeting Minutes – Rick Kosmalski called the meeting to order at 10:22 a.m. The committee reviewed the agenda and voted to approve without any further discussion. The committee also reviewed the September meeting minutes. After little discussion, the committee voted to approve the minutes.

II. Review of position statements – recommendations of edits needed to each

- 1. Subminimum wage**
- 2. Housing**

There were not any copies of proposed revisions provided at this meeting. Rachel shared copies of the National Arc's Policy statements as it relates to both of the above areas for the committee to review. The Council staff recommended the possibility of using the Arc's Position Statements as a starting point for our Council's position on the above areas. The committee agreed to have the staff type up the document and bring to the Council meeting on December 4th for full Council to vote on.

III. Brainstorm on topics to discuss with new legislators – key points – event details – The committee reviewed the information previously discussed at the September Policy & Law meeting regarding a disability discussion with the new legislators. Some key points and questions to ask/discussions to have during the event discussed today are as follows:

- 1.** How much does it cost to keep people in facilities versus in the community?
- 2.** What is the staff to resident ratio?
- 3.** How often do people get moved from an institutional setting into the community?
- 4.** Provide a copy of the Stockley report that was produced. (Terri Hancharick can help locate this report)
- 5.** Date of event – April 17th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Stockley Center with multiple “tours” as all legislators may not be able to attend at the same time. Committee asks that the staff send out the invitations. A list of potential individuals to invite will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

This topic will continue to be discussed in more detail at the January meeting.

IV. Other Business from the Group- Rachel discussed the following:

- 1.** A copy of the letter sent to Representative Kendra Johnson was shared with the committee as well as a copy of the proposed legislation – HB164 – to codify the DDC. This was for informational sharing only.
- 2.** Stefanie Lancaster has been representing the DDC at the recent Legislative Planning meetings hosted by Kyle Hodges and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD). This year, it was decided that the Legislative Policy Agenda would be developed by the SCPD, DDC, and

Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens. The individuals representing each agency collaboratively discussed and decided that our three councils will focus on Accessible Transportation Options, Education as it relates to special education services in K-3, and Personal Attendant Services- Pay Raises for Attendants and Direct Support Professionals (DSP) & Emergency Backup Attendants.

In addition to this, Kyle has asked each Council to share with this small group what each Council specifically will be working on this upcoming legislative session. Rachel asked the P&L committee to share what their recommendations are for the top three ideas should be for the DD Council. Those ideas are: Attendant/Direct Support Professional Care for Individuals with Disabilities when they are hospitalized; Pay Parents/ Back up Attendant Care pay according to skill required as backups; and American Sign Language and the ability to interpret any language. These will be discussed at the Council meeting in more detail.

- V. Next Meeting Date** – A brief meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on December 4th prior to the Council meeting. The next full Policy and Law meeting will be held on January 24th at 10 a.m. at Panera Bread in Newark.
- VI. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.